

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

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R 030535Z MAY 74

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 586

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

UNCLAS HONG KONG 4917

POUCH: MOSCOW, ROME (2), COMUSTDC, FBIS OKINAWA, CINCPAC, BANGKOK,  
JAKARTA, KUALA LUMPUR, MANILA, RANGOON, SINGAPORE, TOKYO,  
VIENTIANE, CANBERRA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, CH

SUBJECT: PRC: THE COUNTRYSIDE: A QUESTION OF ORIENTATION AND ROAD

SUMMARY: THE MOVEMENT, WHICH HAS LATELY SPREAD TO CON-  
SIDERATION OF PROBLEMS IN INDUSTRY (SEE HK 4335 AND HK),  
HAS HAD LITTLE EFFECT UPON AGRICULTURE. RECENT SIGNS,  
HOWEVER, INDICATE THAT THE CENTER IS PAYING RENEWED  
ATTENTION TO AGRICULTURAL PROBLEMS, PARTICULARLY ORGANI-  
ZATION AND BACKSLIDING INTO PRIVATISM. THIS MAY INDICATE  
THAT AT LEAST SOME OF CHINA'S LEADERS NOW WANT TO APPLY  
THE MOVEMENT TO SOCIAL ORGANIZATION IN AGRICULTURE.  
END SUMMARY.

1. THUS FAR, THE CURRENT POLITICAL MOVEMENT APPEARS TO  
HAVE HAD LITTLE EFFECT ON THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR. THE  
PEOPLE'S DAILY EDITORIAL (ER 8, HK 4335), THE PROVINCIAL  
DIRECTIVES AND TELEPHONE CONFERENCES HAVE ALL DEPICTED  
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THE MOVEMENT AS A MEANS TO ACCOMPLISH THE NORMAL GOALS OF

SPEEDING UP SOWING AND TRANSPLANTING INCREASING YIELDS AND ACREAGE, SINKING WELLS, SENDING CADRE DOWN TO HELP OUT DURING A LABOR-SHORT PERIOD AND SO ON.

2. RECENTLY, HOWEVER, ANOTHER THEME HAS BECOME MORE NOTICEABLE. APPARENTLY THE ORGANIZATION OF AGRICULTURE IS AGAIN AT ISSUE, AT LEAST IN SOME PROVINCES, AND THE SIMILARITY OF WORDING SUGGESTS SOME CENTRAL DIRECTION. A "COMMENTATOR" ARTICLE IN THE APRIL 17 INNER MONGOLIA DAILY SAID THAT ONLY BY SCATHINGLY CRITICIZING LIN PIAO'S LINE COULD THE MASSES BETTER SOLVE "THE QUESTION OF ORIENTATION AND ROAD" FOR AGRICULTURE, "FURTHER CONSOLIDATE AND DEVELOP THE SOCIALIST POSITION" IN RURAL AREAS, "DEVELOP AND EXPAND THE SOCIALIST ROAD" (RS APRIL 17). MUCH THE SAME WORDING CAME UP DURING SINKIANG'S TELEPHONE CONFERENCE ON SPRING FARMING (RS APRIL 30).

3. PERHAPS EVEN MORE INDICATIVE WAS THE APRIL RED FLAG ARTICLE ABOUT A FARMING BRIGADE IN KWANGTUNG, WHICH HAS NOW BEEN HIGHLIGHTED IN THE HK TA KUNG PAO WEEKLY SUPPLEMENT'S COLUMN, "THE PAST WEEK." THE CRITICISM CENTERED ON SUCH RETROGRESSION AS PUTTING MONEY AHEAD OF GRAIN, ALLOWING INDIVIDUALS TO ENGAGE IN SIDE-LINE OCCUPATIONS ON A PRIVATE BASIS, FIXING OUTPUT QUOTAS ON THE BASIS OF GROUPS SMALLER THAN A TEAM, AND, FINALLY, ATTEMPTING ADMINISTRATIVE REMEDIES WITHOUT TACKLING THESE PROBLEMS ON THE "HIGH PLANE OF THE STRUGGLE BETWEEN THE TWO CLASSES, TWO ROADS AND TWO LINES."

4. THESE VERBAL FORMULATIONS MAY REFLECT OR PRESSAGE MORE ACTIVITY IN RURAL AREAS TO COUNTER THE DRIFT AWAY FROM THE GREATER COLLECTIVISM THAT CHARACTERIZED THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION PERIOD.  
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